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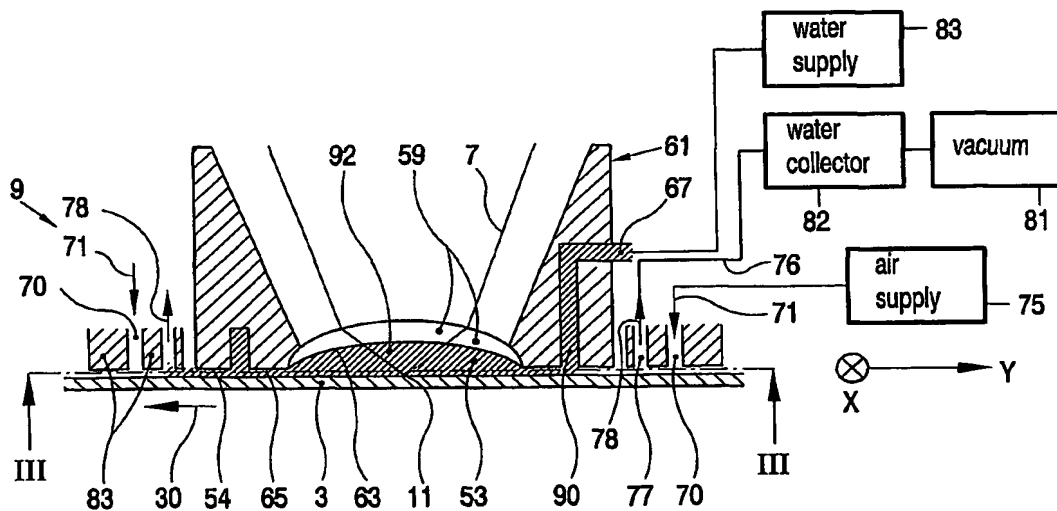
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: LIQUID REMOVAL IN A METHOD AND DEVICE FOR IRRADIATING SPOTS ON A LAYER



(57) Abstract: For irradiating a layer (3) a radiation beam (7) is directed and focused to a spot (11) on the layer (3), relative movement of the layer (3) relative to the optical element (59) is caused so that, successively, different portions of the layer (3) are irradiated and an interspace (53) between a surface of the optical element (59) nearest to the layer (3) is maintained. Furthermore, at least a portion of the interspace (53) through which the radiation irradiates the spot (11) on the layer (3) is maintained filled with a liquid (91). By directing a gas flow (71-73) to a surface zone (74) of the layer (3), liquid (91) is reliably prevented from passing that surface zone (74), without causing damage to the layer (3). The liquid (91) is drawn away from the layer (3) in the vicinity of the surface zone (74).

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## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, PAJ, WPI Data

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category * | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages                        | Relevant to claim No. |
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| Patent document<br>cited in search report |    | Publication<br>date | Patent family<br>member(s)                                                                        | Publication<br>date                                                              |
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